

The Reflections

THE REFLECTIONS are aptly named.

If one were to hold the music of today before a mirror, the reflection would be one of roots. And for THE REFLECTIONS those roots would be in the church, from where so much of the intensity, feeling and emotion of their music and performance is derived.

Like so many vocal groups, THE REFLECTIONS are not newcomers to the field of entertainment. In fact, it could be said that THE REFLECTIONS have been performing just about all their lives, although the group was not formed until 1971.

It was in 1971 that Herman Edwards, Josh Pridgen, Edmund "Butch" Simmons and John Simmons met while attending a recording session at Scepter Studios where Josh Pridgen worked as an engineer. Having full use of studio facilities, THE REFLECTIONS worked long and hard to learn for themselves all aspects of studio recording and production.

In 1972 the very talented Melba Moore selected THE REFLECTIONS as her accompanying vocal group. As a result THE REFLECTIONS have performed with Melba Moore across the country having earned recognition in their own right as entertainers with the potential and ability to excite and electrify an audience, be it uptown at New York's famed Apollo Theatre or downtown at the elegant Waldorf-Astoria.

Joining their collective and individual talents with the songwriting and production genius of J.R. Bailey, Kenny Williams and Jerome Gasper, THE REFLECTIONS have achieved remarkable success and recognition with

their very first release on Capitol Records, Three Steps From True Love.

Herman Edwards - I started singing in Philadelphia. By age 14 I was touring and singing professionally in a gospel group with my brothers and sisters. One of my brothers presently sings with The Intruders. In 1963 I moved to New York and performed Off-Broadway for two years with a gospel group The Sweet Chariots and in 1966 I became a member of Raymond Raspberry's Gospel Choir in Cleveland, Ohio.

Josh Pridgen - Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, I moved to New York in 1967. In Baltimore I sang with The Versatiles and played piano for The Lovells. Both groups were popular in the Maryland area. In New York I started working for Scepter Studios and eventually became an engineer in sessions with Dionne Warwick, B.J. Thomas and Shirley Caesar. Throughout my career I have continued to expand my talents and ability through songwriting, studio work, playing the piano and other keyboard instruments. My other interests are in art, water sports and anything which is close to nature, which may account for my strict vegetarian diet.

Edmund "Butch" Simmons - I've been singing just about all my life. At age 12 my singing was centered around the church with my family and with neighborhood groups in New York. Like the other members of THE REFLECTIONS I have continuously worked to expand my musical talents to encompass all aspects of performing, playing and songwriting. My interests include painting in water colors and writing.

John Simmons - I'm Butch's brother, or he's my brother. Either way by age 14 my brother and I were singing with two friends in a gospel group in New York. I played guitar and piano for several gospel groups for about six years which provided me with an opportunity to perform at New York's Apollo Theatre, in the South and throughout the Midwest. In the past I've played for Valerie Simpson and Dorothy Norwood. My other interests include rowboating, perspective drawing and dancing.

